(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the time by which the funds additional funds are likely to be provided to the State Government to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Project proposal is estimated to cost Rs. 226 crores in 22 districts in Andhra Pradesh for construction of 10 lakh household latrines, 2.5 lakh bathing cubicles, 3.5 lakh metre length of village drains and two camps per village towards awareness camps.

(c) Considering that the total budget under Central Rural Sanitation Programme is Rs. 60 crores only, the State Government was requested to revise the project like adoption of low cost models of sanitary latrines, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) component for creation of felt need/demand, health education and awareness, in order to explore the possibility for external assistance also. This revised project is yet to be sent by the State Government.

Employment Opportunities

853. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Employment Generation Schemes have been introduced in different States during the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of schemes sanctioned for providing employment in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Integrated Rural Develoment Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) are the major employment schemes being implemented by the centre. The scheme of IRDP was launched in the mid seventies as a self employment programme for rural poor in 2300 blocks and later on extended to cover all the blocks in the country with effect from 2nd October, 1980. Under the programme, the target group consists of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans etc. In addition to the above, the programme also provides safeguards to SCs, STs, Physically handicapped persons and women. Similarly, JRY is being implemented w.e.f. 1.4.89. The main objective of the JRY is to provide additional gainful employment to unemployed and underemployed persons in rural areas. Besides, EAS is being implemented w.e.f. 2nd October, 1993. The scheme provides assured employment for 100 days to manual workers between the age group of 18 to 60 years. At present the scheme is being implemented in 3200 backward blocks in the country which are situated in drought prone areas, desert areas, hill areas etc.

Power Project in India

854. SHRI PARASRAMB HARDWAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a leading Japanese industrial house plans to invest nearly 10 billion dollars to set up power project in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Arms to Ex-Servicemen

855. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide arms to the Ex-Servicemen of J and K;

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). The State Government have informed that they have already provided arms to some ex-servicemen who have been enlisted as members of Village Defence Committees to strengthen the efforts to combat terrorist violence, particularly in the Doda and Border districts of Jammu region. In Doda and Udhampur district, 200 such Village Defence Committees have been set up so far, which have over 1680 members many of whom are ex-servicemen. More such Committees are in the process of being set up. Ex-servicemen have also been appointed as Special Police Officers as a part of the overall effort to strengthen the security arrangements. In addition, 17 Coys of ex-servicemen have been raised as a part of the local police and are performing various security related duties.